Estimates of Rs. 2,49,855 Crore. The actual collections (provisional) for 2003-04 financial year is Rs. 2,757 Crore (1.1%) more as compared to Budget Estimates.

(c) The main reasons for exceeding the Budget Estimates include general improvement in the market conditions and growth in the GDP, higher Corporation Tax collections, growth in the manufacturing and trading sector, buoyant capital market and improvements in the tax administration.

(d) The steps being taken to enhance revenue collections include widening the tax base, phasing out of exemptions wherever possible, strengthening tax administration, plugging leakage of revenue, recovery of tax arrears through a multi-pronged drive and simplification of tax procedures to improve compliance.

Airbus service between Kolkata and Agartala

*118. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CIVILAVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for want of Airbus or Boeing aircrafts in the morning between Kolkata and Agartala, the national newspapers cannot reach the readers in the evening;

(b) whether it is a fact that ATR aircraft plying in the morning at present cannot carry the bundles of papers and cannot withstand the load of baggages and luggages; and

(c) whether an Airbus or a Boeing would be operated between Agartala and Kolkata in the morning very shortly to solve the above problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVILAVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The matter has been brought to the notice of the government. However, there are 26 flights every week on Kolkata-Agartala sector, which is sufficient to meet the present demand.

Funds for Centrally-sponsored Schemes

†*119. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a scheme to provide funds for the Centrally sponsored schemes directly to Panchayats in future; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.